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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/937,777	10/01/2001	Satoru Ouchi	110700	7090

7590 04/04/2006
Oliff & Berridge
PO Box 19928
Alexandria, VA 22320

EXAMINER

HOTALING, JOHN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3714

DATE MAILED: 04/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/937,777

Applicant(s)

OUCHI, SATORU

Examiner

John M. Hotaling II

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 September 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 31-33, 35-39, 51-53 and 56-58 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 31-33, 35-39, 51-53 and 56-58 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 October 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 32, 33, 52, 53, 57 and 58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claims 32, 52, and 57 contain the limitation that the **"second generating section extracts the game-image data corresponding to the normal screen from the game image data generated by the first generating section such that the game image data corresponding to the normal screen has an area between one end of the normal screen and the character that is larger than an area between an other end of the normal screen and the character based on the moving direction or an eyes direction of the character in the game image data generated by the first generating section."** A detailed reading of the specification of the instant application does not lead the examiner to understand that this specific limitation is supported by the specification. Paragraph 77 of the 2003/0096647 which is the instant application discloses that the area may be changed in accordance to the range of vision desired not based on the larger end of a screen and the character. Appropriate correction is requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kranawetter et al US Patent 5,249,049 in view of Okayama et al US Patent 5,045,939 in view of Miyamoto et al US Patent 6,331,146. Kranawetter discloses managing displays which includes a display format ratio or aspect ration and a controller for determining the active video portion of a signal and adaptively displaying the active video portion so as to make full use of the vertical viewing area and is usable in a video game. The invention responds adaptively to changes in the format ration of the active video to selectively adjust the proportion of compression or expansion (zoom) and pan to fill the entire viewing area with the active video portion of the received signal. The selection can depend upon viewer preference or be programmed in advance (column 1 and 8). Columns 8 and 9 disclose the luminance and chrominance outputs. To show a 4/3 signal on a 16/9 display unit, or to show a 16/9 signal on a 4/3 display unit, either less than all of the display unit area is used, or the video information is altered. The received picture can be zoomed to fill the screen in one dimension, with portions in the other dimension removed from the signal. For example, top and bottom portions of a 4/3 signal can be cropped, with the remainder filling a 16/9 format area, or side portions of a 16/9 signal can be cropped, with the remainder filling a 4/3 area. It is the ratio of width

to height which is of concern rather than any need to enlarge or contract the signal in general. Instead of simply cropping the signal, it is known to pan up and down or from side to side, either automatically or under control of a telecine operator or the like, to avoid loss of important information in the scene. It is also known to distort the signal to be displayed, for example compressing a 16/9 signal horizontally for display on a 4/3 display unit, as is often seen when screen credits from a Cinemascope (16/9) movie are displayed in a commercial (4/3) broadcast. Cropping, panning and distortion all omit or adversely affect the quality and/or content of the picture. It is an aspect of the invention automatically to adjust a means for displaying a video source signal so as to adaptively accommodate any format display ratio within a predetermined range, the active portion of the video source signal being expanded vertically and centered so as to fill the display screen. According to an inventive arrangement, an incoming signal is converted continuously and adaptively from whatever active video display format ratio, into a display format that uses all the available vertical screen area, subject to user selection or programming. Even if the display format ratio changes during viewing, for example where border lettering appears or thereafter disappears in a letterbox format signal, or where the incoming signal changes from letterbox to conventional or back, the receiver according to the invention recalculates the timing and display parameters to adjust over successive fields, making optimal use of the available display area. The invention provides high resolution, single and multiple picture displays from single or multiple asynchronous sources having similar or different format ratios, and with selectable display format ratios, all on a continuous and adaptively ongoing basis. The system as

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described can display quite a number of variations of multiple source or altered (cropped, expanded, etc.) signal display. The programming of WSP microprocessor 309 can include a number of preset default arrangements wherein the system displays combinations of signals or signals altered in the manners described. Alternatively, or in addition, the user can selectively format the display using on-screen programming techniques or the like, as discussed for example with reference to the selection of individual sources for display. Any or all of the multiple sources can be provided in a particular aspect ratio (including a letterbox format) that does not involve active video in the same aspect ratio as the area devoted to that source in the display or the composite multiple source display. The WSP microprocessor 309 can be arranged to make the same sort of expansion, compression or other alterations necessary to provide the desired display for the respective source. This requires simply that the lines of active video be sensed for each source and placed at the display positions required to adaptively position the active video in the display area.

With respect to the claim limitations relative to the game image data corresponding to the normal screen has an area between the one end of the normal screen and the character that is larger than an area between an other end of the of the normal screen and the character based on the moving direction or an eyes direction it is known to pan up and down or from side to side, either automatically or under control of a telecine operator or the like, to avoid loss of important information in the scene. This means that important information related to the scene will be displayed. Below this will be done automatically as disclosed by Okayama.

Kranawetter lacks is specifically disclosing how a character is moved about a game space and that the second generating section is generated based on a movement data or an eyes data of the character in a game space. Instead Kranawetter provides motivation to use his system with a game system and to automatically to adjust a means for displaying a video source signal so as to adaptively accommodate any format display ratio within a predetermined range, the active portion of the video source signal being expanded vertically and centered so as to fill the display screen. One of ordinary skill in the art would understand that providing a display in accordance with the movement of a character in a game space is known and taught by Miyamoto which leaves the second generating section is generated based on a movement data or an eyes data of the character in a game space. In an analogous invention to Okayama therein is disclosed in the abstract an apparatus for converting a wide screen television signal to a desired normal screen television signal includes an extraction circuit for selectively extracting a portion of the wide screen television signal corresponding to a normal screen television picture to obtain the desired normal television signal, a motion detector for detecting a motion of a picture produced by the wide screen television signal, and a control circuit for controlling the extracting circuit to extract the portion of the wide screen television signal according to a motion detection result of the motion detector. A plurality of candidate areas to be extracted from the wide screen television picture are predetermined. The motion detector detects from among the plurality areas an area in which the motion of the picture is the largest. The control circuit controls the extracting circuit to extract a portion of the wide screen television signal corresponding

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to the area in which the motion of the picture is the largest. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to combine these references since Kranawetter discloses that it is known in the art to have different aspect ratio viewing devices and to automatically display information important for the viewer of a program or interactive program such as a game. Therefore it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a display on a game device which could be adapted to different display ratios using the most important view.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. With respect to the previous objection to the specification, drawings and 101 rejections the previous rejections have been obviated by the cancellation of the claims.

Citation of Pertinent Prior Art

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Cookson '567, Mimura '340, Yamauchi '659 all disclose applications with various aspect ratios and storage mediums.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John M. Hotaling II whose telephone number is (571) 272 4437. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7:30-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai can be reached on (571) 272 3507. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JOHN M. HOTALING, II
PRIMARY EXAMINER

March 29, 2006